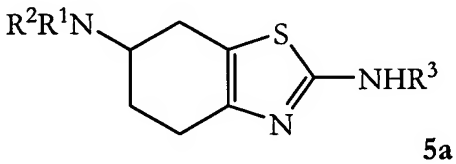
In the Claims

Applicants present replacement claims below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts.

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of a 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-

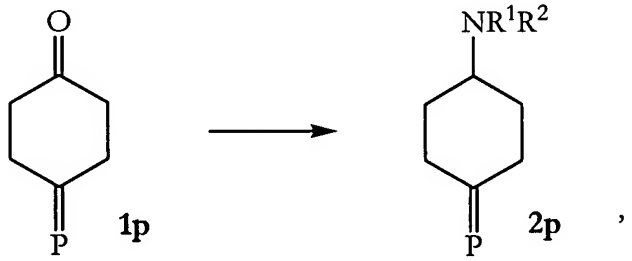


5a

aminobenzothiazole **5a**

or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

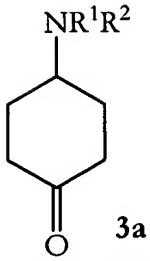
(a) reductively aminating a protected cyclohexandione **1p** with an amine R^1R^2NH to yield a protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2p**:



1p **2p** ,

wherein P is a protected ketone functionality, and R^1 and R^2 are any atom or group or, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a ring;

(b) deprotecting the protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2p** to yield an unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a**



3a ; and

(c) treating the unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a** with iodine and a substituted thiourea $H_2N(C=S)NHR^3$, wherein R^3 is any atom or group, to yield the 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole **5a** or a salt thereof.

2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein P is a cyclic ketal **1r**.

3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein P is a monoethyleneketal **1**.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, alkylaryl, alkenylaryl or alkynylaryl group, which may include one or more heteroatoms N, O or S in its carbon skeleton.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen or an unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group, which does not include any heteroatoms N, O or S in its carbon skeleton.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, alkylaryl, alkenylaryl or alkynylaryl group, which may include one or more heteroatoms N, O or S in its carbon skeleton

7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is *n*-propyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

9. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the reductive amination of step (a) is carried out with $NaCNBH_3$.

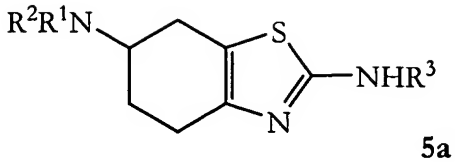
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound~~ process as claimed in claim ~~10 or claim 11~~ 25, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 and R^2 is *n*-propyl.

13-24. Canceled.

25. (New) A process for the preparation of a 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-

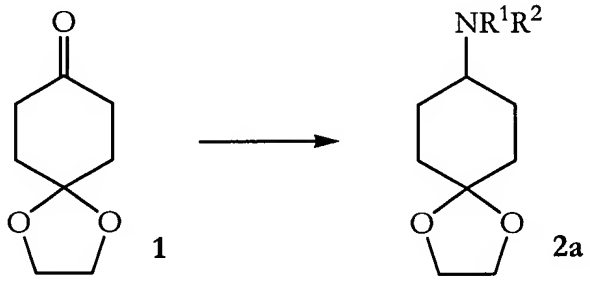


5a

aminobenzothiazole **5a**

or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

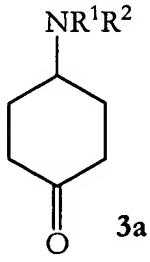
(a) reductively aminating a protected cyclohexandione **1** with an amine R^1R^2NH to yield a protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2a**:



1 **2a**

wherein R^1 and R^2 are any atom or group or, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a ring;

(b) deprotecting the protected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **2a** to yield an unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a**



3a ; and

(c) treating the unprotected 4-amino-cyclohexanone **3a** with iodine and a substituted thiourea $H_2N(C=S)NHR^3$, wherein R^3 is any atom or group, to yield the 2-amino-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-6-aminobenzothiazole **5a** or a salt thereof.